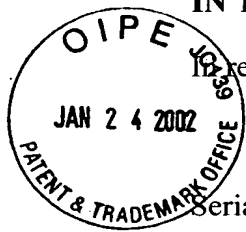


24 JAN 2002

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



~~Free~~ Applicant:

Ilan LEVY et al

Serial No.: 10/009,817

Filed: December 13, 2001

For: Modification of Polysaccharide Containing Materials

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Attorney
Docket: 01/22952

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PETITION TO MAKE AN APPLICATION SPECIAL
37 C.F.R. 1.102

Sir,

This is a petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.102 to make the above-described application special which may be filed without a fee since the basis therefor is that the invention will materially enhance the quality of the environment.

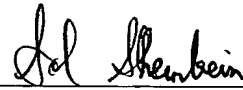
The present invention relates to methods and compositions for altering the properties of polysaccharide materials such as papers and cotton yarn so as to enhance certain mechanical properties, such as wet strength.

Various techniques have been used to improve the wet strength of both papers and cotton yarn, including the use of chemical crosslinkers, such as formaldehyde resins, or the application of hydrophobic materials, such as wax, all of which have a negative impact on the recyclability of the treated paper.

The present invention is directed to compositions and methods for crosslinking polymeric or polysaccharide materials using compositions comprising at least one polysaccharide binding domain (PBD) which function as versatile biological crosslinkers. The use of biological crosslinkers as opposed to chemical crosslinkers and hydrophobic materials improves the recyclability of these products.

Consequently, it is urged that the instant invention will materially enhance the quality of the environment and that this application should be advanced out of turn for examination.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sol Sheinbein", is written over a horizontal line.

Sol Sheinbein
Registration No. 25,457
Attorney for Applicant

Dated: January 21, 2002